

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12—HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES OF BURMESE WOMEN AND GIRLS

Mrs. MURRAY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 12

Whereas credible reports indicate that thousands of Burmese women and girls are being trafficked into Thailand with false promises of good paying jobs in restaurants or factories, and then forced to work in brothels under slavery-like conditions that include sexual and physical violence, debt bondage, exposure to HIV, passport deprivation, and illegal confinement;

Whereas credible reports also indicate that members of the Thai police force are often actively involved in, and profit from, the trafficking of Burmese women and girls for the purposes of forced prostitution;

Whereas the United States Government conducts training programs for the Thai police and United States arms and equipment are sold to the Thai police;

Whereas the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women requires all States Parties "to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women";

Whereas Article 1 of the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery calls for the complete abolition or abandonment of debt bondage;

Whereas forced labor, defined under the 1930 Forced Labor Convention as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily," is internationally prohibited;

Whereas the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others finds the traffic in persons for the purposes of prostitution "incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person," and calls on States Parties to punish any person who procures for the purposes of prostitution, keeps, manages or knowingly finances a brothel, or rents premises for the prostitution of others;

Whereas Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs John Shattuck has testified that the United States "urgently needs to encourage countries in which trafficking of women and children goes on with impunity to enact new laws, and to enforce existing laws. A particular target of this stepped-up law enforcement should be government officials who participate in or condone trafficking, as well as brothel owners and traffickers"; and

Whereas Secretary of State Warren Christopher stated before the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights that "(g)uaranteeing human rights is a moral imperative with respect to both women and men": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

(1) trafficking in persons violates the fundamental principle of human dignity, and forced prostitution involving physical coercion or debt bondage constitutes a form of forced labor and a slavery-like practice;

(2) the United States State Department should continue to press the Thai Government to strictly enforce all laws that can lead to the prosecution of those involved in trafficking and forced prostitution, includ-

ing procurers, traffickers, pimps, brothel owners, and members of the Thai police who may be complicit;

(3) the State Department should ensure that Thai police participants in the United States Government-sponsored police training programs are systematically vetted to exclude those who are implicated in trafficking and forced prostitution;

(4) the executive branch should take steps to assure that weapons and equipment provided or sold to the Thai police do not become available to members of those forces who might be involved in trafficking, forced prostitution, or abuse of women and girls who are apprehended;

(5) the State Department should urge the Thai Government to protect the rights and safety of Burmese women and girls in Thailand who are freed from brothels or who are arrested as illegal immigrants because their status as trafficking victims is unclear;

(6) the United States Agency for International Development should target a portion of its assistance to Thailand for AIDS prevention and control to the foreign population in Thailand, particularly Burmese women and girls in the Thai sex industry; and

(7) the State Department should report to Congress, within 6 months of the date of this resolution, on actions that it has taken to advocate that the Thai Government implement the above steps.

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I submit a resolution expressing the sense of Congress concerning the trafficking of Burmese women and girls into Thailand for the purpose of forced prostitution. This is identical to a resolution submitted in the House by Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER.

I have long supported steps to help improve the gross human rights violations inflicted on women around the world. I am outraged at reports from Human Rights Watch and others citing the egregious abuse of Burmese women and girls who are lured into Thailand with false promises to work at good paying jobs, and then confined in illegal brothels. These women and girls live in brutal conditions, often forced to work 18 hours a day with several different clients. They are subjected to physical and sexual abuse that makes escape practically impossible. In addition, there is virtually no health care or birth control available, and the HIV virus is rampant among these women and girls.

Reportedly, these abuses take place with the knowledge of the Thai Government and the likely involvement of the Thai police. I am deeply concerned by reports that these officials not only fail to protect these women and girls, but actually provide support to the brothels and brothel owners.

Mr. President, this resolution seeks to call attention to these abuses. In addition to stating that sex trafficking is a violation of the fundamental principle of human dignity, it encourages the State Department to press the Thai Government to enforce the laws that can lead to the prosecution of these traffickers. It also encourages the Thai Government to ensure the rights and safety of Burmese women and girls in Thailand. In addition, any weapons and equipment sold to the Thai police by

the United States should be kept out of the hands of those individuals who may be involved in trafficking these women and girls. And, finally, the United States Agency for International Development should target a portion of its assistance to Thailand for AIDS prevention and control.

We in Congress must act now to help stop these brutal practices. The savage treatment of Burmese women and girls in Thailand, and the abuses they are subjected to, must cease. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and help send a message that the trafficking and forced prostitution of women and girls around the world is simply unacceptable.●

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

### THE COMMONSENSE LEGAL STANDARDS REFORM ACT OF 1995 COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY REFORM ACT OF 1995

#### ROCKEFELLER AMENDMENT NO. 686

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 645 proposed by him to amendment No. 596 proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product litigation, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after "Notwithstanding" and insert the following: "section 197(b)(1), the amount of punitive damages that may be awarded to a claimant in a product liability action that is subject to this title shall be the greater of—

"(1) the amount determined under section 107(b)(1); or  
"(2) \$250,000."

#### ROCKEFELLER AMENDMENT NO. 687

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 646 proposed by him to amendment No. 596 proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill H.R. 956, supra; as follows:

Strike all after "Notwithstanding" and insert the following: "section 107(b), the amount of punitive damages that may be awarded to a claimant in a product liability action that is subject to this title shall not exceed \$500,000."

#### ROCKEFELLER AMENDMENT NO. 688

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 647 proposed by him to amendment No. 596 proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill H.R. 956, supra; as follows:

Strike all after "Notwithstanding" and insert the following: "section 107(b)(1), the amount of punitive damages that may be

awarded to a claimant in a product liability action that is subject to this title shall not exceed 3 times the sum of the amounts described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such section.”.

#### BYRD AMENDMENT NO. 689

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BYRD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 596 proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill H.R. 956, *supra*, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert

Since, the United States and Japan have a long and important relationship which serves as an anchor of peace and stability in the Pacific region;

Since, the overall balance in the U.S.-Japan relationship has been eroded as a result of persistent and large trade deficits which are the result of practices and regulations which have substantially blocked legitimate access of American products to the Japanese market;

Since, the current account trade deficit with Japan in 1994 reached an historic high level of \$66 billion, of which \$37 billion, or 56 percent, is attributed to imbalances in the automobile sector, and of which \$12.8 billion is attributable to auto parts flows;

Since, in July, 1993, the Administration reached a broad accord with the Government of Japan, called the “United States-Japan Framework for a New Economic Partnership”, which established automotive trade regulations as one of 5 priority areas for negotiations, to seek market-opening arrangements based on objective criteria and which would result in objective progress;

Since, a healthy American automobile industry is of central importance to the American economy, and to the capability of the United States to fulfill its commitments to remain as an engaged, deployed, Pacific power;

Since, after 18 months of negotiations with the Japanese, beginning in September 1993, the U.S. Trade Representative concluded that no progress had been achieved, leaving the auto parts market in Japan “virtually closed”;

Since, in October, 1994, the United States initiated an investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 into the Japanese auto parts market, which could result in the imposition of trade sanctions on a variety of Japanese imports into the United States unless measurable progress is made in penetrating the Japanese auto parts market;

Since, negotiations are continuing between the United States and Japan to achieve lasting market-opening arrangements into the Japanese automobile and parts sector;

Now, therefore, be it

*Declared*, That it is the Sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate supports the efforts of the President to continue to strongly press the Government of Japan, through bilateral negotiations under the agreed “Framework for a New Economic Partnership,” for sharp reductions in the trade imbalances in automotive sales and parts through the elimination of unfair and restrictive Japanese market-closing practices and regulations; and

(2) If such results-oriented negotiations are not concluded satisfactorily, appropriate and reasonable measures, up to and including trade sanctions, should be imposed in accordance with Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974; and

(3) The Senate is prepared to fully support any such measures that might be taken

against Japanese products, including appropriate legislation.

#### NOTICES OF HEARINGS

##### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Special Committee on Aging will hold a hearing on Thursday, May 11, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The subject of the hearing is long-term care financing.

#### NOTICES OF HEARING CHANGE

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the nomination of Charles William Burton to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation will not be considered on Wednesday, May 10, 1995, as previously announced.

For further information, please call Camille Heninger at (202) 224-5070.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 2 p.m. in closed/open session to receive testimony on the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's fiscal year 1996 budget request and the future years defense program; and on the future of the ABM Treaty.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be permitted to meet Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-215, to conduct a hearing on the Vaccines for Children Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 10 a.m. to hear testimony on China: Illegal Trade in Human Body Parts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing on judicial nominees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on primary Health Care Programs, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995 to hold hearings on the Navy T-AO-187 *Kaiser* class oiler contract.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Housing Opportunity and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, to conduct a hearing on Federal Housing Administration Reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology be authorized to meet on May 4, 1995, on High Performance Computing and Communications and the World Wide Web at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, WASTE CONTROL, AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Control, and Risk Assessment be granted permission to conduct an oversight hearing Thursday, May 4, at 9 a.m., regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY, AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Government Information of the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, to consider “Counter-Terrorism Legislation.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.